

Good morning,

Please consider this as written testimony for H.B. No. 6824 hearing today, Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 5 pm.

Going into the PLTI class, my youngest son had been diagnosed with ADD, during the course of the class; his diagnosis was updated to include sensory processing disorder. Midway in my PLTI journey, my oldest was diagnosed with PTSD and depression due to bullying. The PLTI class gave me the tools and knowledge to research the assistance for my children and helped me take that research and present it in their respective PPT's in a way that I was able to secure the help my children needed.

Because of the PLTI curriculum during the first 10 weeks, which focuses on our personal journey, I was able to find support from my classmates who helped me find my inner strength to seek out the personal resources to help my children. The emotional turmoil through this process was easier with the help and support of my PLTI peers. They helped me be a better parent.

The second 10 weeks of my PLTI journey, I was given the skills and confidence to be the proper advocate when meeting with school officials and various counselors.

Today, one year later my boys are both thriving in school, getting the support services that they need in school and out, my oldest now goes to school with more confidence and enjoys being a part of the school community. A year ago that was not the case. There is no greater joy or peace in my heart knowing how much my children have improved in the last year and it is because of the tools, support and relationships that came from that PLTI class.

*Thank you,
Cate Speakman
PLTI Class of 2014*